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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 408 Press Mis.

63-64

Dated 4 · 2 · 1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 63. Read the following letter from Colonel J. CARPENDALE, R. E., Acting Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 11th January 1870, No. 121:—

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the orders of Government, the correspondence as per margin relating to the loss of 200 rupees which has occurred in the Bhowanassy Division, Head-quarters Vellapanoor, Executive Engineer Mr. A. J. Dodson, and which the Chief Engineer proposes writing off to "Profit and Loss." The circumstances attending the loss are as follow :—

From Agent, No. 384, 25th November 1869.
To ,, ,, 255, 6th December 1869.
From ,, ,, 6, 6th January 1870.

On the 9th September last Mr. Dodson sent bills to the amount of Rupees 20,000 in charge of two peons and a bandyman to the treasury at Nundial to be cashed. The coin in exchange was given in twenty bags purporting to contain 1,000 rupees each, and this number of bags were delivered by the peons at Vellapanoor on the evening of Saturday the 11th September, when Mr. Dodson immediately saw them locked into his cash chest. On Monday the 13th idem the contents of the bags were counted by the Executive Engineer's Head Clerk, L. Beejulal, who reported to the Executive Engineer that he found Rupees 100 short in the second bag that he examined, and a like amount in the seventeenth bag. This is the Executive Engineer's account, while the Chief Engineer reports that the deficiency of one sum of a 100 rupees was discovered by the Head Writer in open office, and the other deficiency was discovered by Mr. Dodson himself in the Clerk's presence.

2. Every effort is reported to have been made to ascertain how the deficiency occurred, and, if the amount was stolen, to detect the thief, but without avail ; and I am not surprised at it, for the whole transaction was conducted in a very loose manner and without ordinary precaution.

3. In the first place, supposing the two peons to be a sufficient escort for a large sum of money provided it is properly secured, not omitting a seal to each bag, I think some person of a higher class should be deputed to see the amount counted or weighed into each bag and to seal them up.

4. Then, it appears from the deposition of Peon Abboy, taken before the Deputy Magistrate of the Nundial Division, and which is not contradicted by the Treasury officials, that the delivery of the coin in exchange for the cheques was made as follows :—

Twenty bags purporting to contain each 1,000 rupees were brought from the cash chest and laid in the room opposite the Treasury room, a Police Constable being on guard and a Sheristadar seated in the adjoining verandah. The money was neither weighed nor counted out to the Irrigation Company's peons, as I consider it ought to have been ; the bags were simply laid out, and the peons told to take possession by counting or weighing. The peon further deposes that he first examined the contents of two bags by weighments of 225 rupees each in small scales, and that, finding four weighments come exact without any balance, he concluded the amount of 1,000 rupees in each bag was right. This deposition was made on the 23rd September, twelve days after date, when the peon deposed that

he remembered having foolishly counted only 225 rupees into the scale instead of 250. I do not think this statement is to be credited at all. It is clearly an after-thought, an attempt to prove that he only received Rupees 900 in each of two bags from the treasury. He further states that he afterwards *counted* the contents of a third bag and found it to be exactly 1,000 rupees, and that he weighed the remaining seventeen bags against this one in one weighment for each and found them to be correct. It thus appears that delivery was made by the Treasury officials and taken by the Irrigation Company's servants in a very loose and irregular manner: then the bags were removed and conveyed to Vellapanoor without being sealed. They were then locked up by the Executive Engineer without being examined in any way at all because it was 8 o'clock on Saturday night and too late to count the money; and finally it was an error to devolve the responsibility of examining bags containing 20,000 rupees on an office servant however high his character, and the man referred to bears a very high one, and is one in whom the Chief Engineer has perfect confidence; but where the amount was so large, the bags without seals, and that they had been for a considerable time in sole charge of two peons, more precautions ought to have been taken before relieving them of their responsibility by locking up the bags.

5. As a precaution against loss in future the Agent proposes supplying each Executive Engineer with a Treasure chest fitted with Chubb's locks and duplicate keys, one key to be kept by himself and the other by the officer in charge of the treasury. I entirely concur in the suggestion of having Treasure chests, and, if the Government consider that the Treasury officer's responsibility should cease when the coin leaves his premises, I think it would be a sufficient safeguard for the Executive Engineer to depute his Clerk or some person of similar position to receive the money, seal the bags, and lock them up; but the Treasury officers should be required to have the amount counted out by weighments of 100 rupees to the party authorized to receive it.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 4th February 1870, No. 403.

IRRIGATION, No. 2.

IN this letter the Acting Consulting Engineer for the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company submits correspondence regarding a deficiency of Rupees 200 which was found in counting the contents of twenty bags of coin received by Mr. Dodson on the 11th September 1869 from the Nundial Treasury.

2. Colonel Carpendale details fully the circumstances under which the loss was sustained, and expresses an opinion that delivery of the money was taken by the Company's Agents in a very incautious manner, and no precautions were adopted for the examination of the bags containing it before they were opened. In this the Government concur; but as there are no means of ascertaining where the defalcation occurred, and the money cannot be traced, His Excellency in Council sees no alternative but to authorize the amount to be written off to "Profit and Loss." It is of importance, however, that measures should be speedily adopted for preventing the recurrence of similar losses, and the Government accordingly approve of the suggestion to provide each Executive Engineer with a Treasure chest of the description mentioned in paragraph 2.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 4th February 1870.

3. As the arrangements under which bills presented at Treasury offices are cashed appear to need some modification, the suggestion in paragraph 5 will be referred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company.
,, Agent and Manager for Do. do.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR

IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 4th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 4th February 1870, No. 408.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 63-64

"*Profit and Loss*" (*Madras Irrigation and Canal Company*).—Passing orders on the letter from the Consulting Engineer submitting correspondence regarding a deficiency of Rupees 200 which was found in counting the contents of twenty bags of coin received by Mr. Dodson on the 11th September 1869 from the Nundial Treasury, and the proposal of the Chief Engineer to write off the amount to "Profit and Loss."

Consulting Engineer's Office
Irrigation & Canal Company
Madras, 11th January 1870.

No. 121.

From Agent No. 384-25th Nov.
To — " 255-6th Dec.
From — " 6th Jany/70.

From
Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.
Ag. Consulting for Irr. Co.

To
The Secretary to Government
Department of Pub. Works.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the orders of Government the correspondence as per margin relating to the loss of two hundred rupees which has occurred in the Powanassy Division - Head quarters Vellapanoor - Executive Engineer Mr. H. S. Dodson - and which the Chief Engineer proposes writing off to Profit and Loss - The circumstances attending the loss are as follow:

On the 9th September last Mr. Dodson sent bills to the amount of Rupees 20,000 in charge of two peons and a bandyman to the treasury at Nundial to be cashed - the coin in exchange was given in twenty bags purporting to contain one thousand rupees each, and this number of bags were delivered by the peons at Vellapanoor on the evening of Saturday the 11th September when Mr. Dodson immediately saw them locked into his cash chest - On Monday the 13th idem the contents of the bags were counted by the Executive Engineer's Head Clerk P. Beejulal who reported to the Executive Engineer that he found Rupees 100 short

in

in the second bag that he examined and a little amount in the 3rd bag - This is the Executive Engineer's account, while the Chief Engineer reports that the deficiency of one sum of a hundred Rupees was discovered by the head writer in open office and the other deficiency was discovered by Mr Dodson himself in the clerks presence -

2. Every effort is reported to have been made to ascertain how the deficiency occurred, and if the amount was stolen to detect the thief but without avail, and I am not surprised at it, for the whole transaction was conducted in a very loose manner and without ordinary precaution -

3. In the first place, supposing the two pions to be a sufficient escort for a large sum of money provided it is properly secured, not omitting a seal to each bag, I think some person of a higher class should be deputed to see the amount counted or weighed into each bag and to seal them up -

3. Then it appears from the deposition of Pion Abboy taken before the Deputy Magistrate of the Mundial Division, and which is not contradicted by the Treasury officials, that the delivery of the coin in exchange for the cheques was made as follows:-

Twenty bags purporting to contain each 1000 Rupees were brought from the cash chest and laid in the room opposite the Treasury room, a Police constable being on guard, and the Chenistadar seated in the adjoining verandah - The money was neither weighed nor counted out to the Irrigation Company's pions, as I consider it ought to have been, the bags were simply laid out and the pions told to take possession by counting or weighing - The pion further deposes that he first examined the contents of two bags by weighments of 225 Rupees each in small scales and that finding four weighments come exact without any balance he concluded the amount of 1000 Rupees in each bag was right - This deposition was made on the 23rd September - twelve days after date, when the pion deposed that he remembered having foolishly counted only 225 Rupees into the scale instead of 250. I do not think this statement is to be credited at all, - It is clearly an after thought, an attempt to prove that he only received Rupees 900 in each of two bags from the Treasury - He further states that he afterwards counted the contents of a third bag and found it to be exactly 1,000 Rupees, and that he weighed the remaining 17 bags against this one in one weighment for each and found them to be correct - It thus appears that delivery was made by the Treasury officials - and taken by the Irrigation Company's servants in a very loose and irregular manner; then the bags were removed and conveyed to Vellapanoor without being sealed - They were then locked up by the Executive Engineer without being examined in any way

at

Public Works Department

No 1108

Proceedings of the Madras Govt:

Under date the 4th February 1870

Read the following

From The Secy: to Govt: Public Works Dept:

To The Engineer for Irrigation & Canals

Dated Fort St. George the 12th January 1870

In this letter the Acting Executive Engineer for the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company submits correspondence regarding a deficiency of Rs. 200 which was found in Cashier's Office on the 11th September 1869 from the Cash Establishment of Twenty Days Pay.

Civil Revenue Dept: Mr. Anderson

the Chief Engr: & Secy: to Govt:

Ack: Corresponds details fully the circumstances under which the loss occurred and expresses our opinion

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Ry 1870 Dept
Pro: of Govt for February
No 182
From
The Collector for Lt. Govr.
To
The Secretary to Govt: P.W.

No 408. 4. Feby 1870.

Dated 11th
Rec. 15 } Jany 70.

Encs: 12.

Forwards for the orders of Govt: the correspondence within mentioned from the Agent regarding the loss of Rs. 200 which occurred in Septr: last in the Bowanagoy Dt: & which the Chief Engr: proposes writing off & Right Hon.

No 63
2. 24 Jany 1870 Rd. 28

opinion that delivery of the money was taken by the Company's Agents in a very incautious manner, and no precautions were adopted for the Examination of the bags containing it before they were opened. In this the Govt: Concur, but as there are no means of ascertaining where the defalcation occurred, and the money cannot be traced, His Excellency in Council sees no alternative but to authorize the amount to be written off to Profit and Loss. It is of importance, however, that all measures shoud be speedily adopted for preventing the recurrence of similar losses, and the Govt: accordingly approve of the suggestion to provide each Executive Engineer with a Treasure Chest of the description mentioned in Para 2.

As the arrangements under which Bills presented at Treasury Offices are cashed appear to need some modification, the suggestion in Para 5 will be referred to the Revenue Department for Consideration.

To Govt: I. M. Co. with 12 enclosures
Public Works Dept.
Rev. Dept. 5

Despe 5/7/73.

Cue 182

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To *The Consulting Engr for the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company*

Dated

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., L. & Rev. Dy 1870, No. 408

Nos. 63-64

"Dispt Ldgr" (Ld. 1662) Dispenses order on the letter from the Chief Engr. distributing correspondence expl. a deficiency of Rs 200 which was found in counting the contents of 20 bags of coin received by Rly Dept. on the 11th Sept/69 from the Mundial Treasury, and the proceedings of the Chief Engr. both of the amount to "Dispt Ldgr".

e. 24 Jan/1870 R. 25th

Cue 182

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To *The Consulting Engr for the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company*

Dated

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., L. & Rev. Dy 1870, No. 408

Nos. 63-64

"Dispt Ldgr" (Ld. 1662) Dispenses order on the letter from the Chief Engr. distributing correspondence expl. a deficiency of Rs 200 which was found in counting the contents of 20 bags of coin received by Rly Dept. on the 11th Sept/69 from the Mundial Treasury, and the proceedings of the Chief Engr. both of the amount to "Dispt Ldgr".

e. 24 Jan/1870 R. 25th